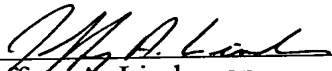


REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error in the number of the cited German Patent. A copy of the German Patent is being filed in the Information Disclosure Statement that accompanies this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey A. Lindeman
Reg. No. 34,658

Dated: December 21, 2005

NIXON PEABODY LLP
401 9th Street, N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128

(202) 585-8000